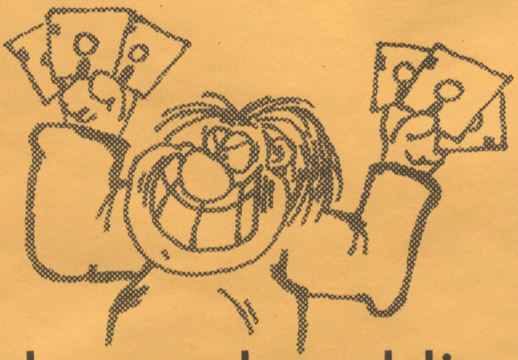
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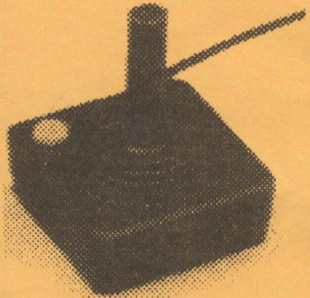
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Welcome to the Omnibus!

It's been quite a while since such a collection of Atari 8-bit products has been on display anywhere. I'm pleased to present the Atari 8-bit Omnibus, your guide to the 8-bit Atari.

This project began in April of 1994, when Atari Classics appeared to be sinking (but has since been reborn). I had just begun to follow the UseNet comp.sys.atari.8bit newsgroup, where I found the Vendors and Developers list. The idea of the Omnibus was born. I wrote to everyone listed. My offer was simple: Free ads to everyone who still supported the 8-bit Atari. And, slowly but surely, ads began to arrive.

Ads came in every shape and size. Everything from full-page, professionally produced images to a handwritten scrawl on a torn piece of notepaper. Ads from three continents offering hardware and software, showing that the Atari 8-bit lives on.

And now you're holding the result of that work in your hands. Seeing the final product brings me a great deal of satisfaction. I hope you enjoy the Atari 8-bit Omnibus and find it a useful resource. Most of all, I hope you keep on having fun with the best 8-bit computer ever made.

David A. Paterson
Editor and Publisher
October 1994

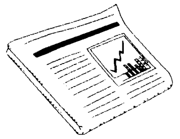
The Atari 8-bit Omnibus was edited and published by David A. Paterson.
Send any comments or ideas to the address below or to:
D.PATERSON2@genie.geis.com

Additional copies can be ordered for $5 (US) from:

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Canada

Makes cheques or money orders payable to David A. Paterson.
Orders for 5 or more copies are $4 per copy if mailed to the same address.

New Products



Fine Tooned Engineering Announces MIO II!

Fine Tooned Engineering of Scotts Valley, CA has announced the Mini I/O II, the first IDE hard drive interface for 800xl and 130xe computers. The MIO II, unlike its predecessor, does not include serial or parallel ports. It does include a power supply and all necessary cabling to hook up an IDE hard drive. The power supply is switchable for 110 or 230 volt operation. Shipping should begin in November of 1994. 99^{95}

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- Atari Users! Is your 8-bit Atari sharing space on your computer desk with a PC compatible? Or perhaps you're considering acquiring a PC? Add synergy to the pairing with a system that allows you to store your Atari programs and files on the PC's high capacity drives and put away those slow 810 and 1050 drives. SIO2PC is a sophisticated software package plus a simple hardware interface featuring:

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- Virtual disks can be up to 16 MB, single or double density, designated D1 to D8.

- Boot from the PC. After transferring your files you won't even need an Atari drive.

- Works on any PC from the original 8088 to the latest 486 and higher!

- The system emulates an Atari drive at the hardware level, so any DOS will work. CIO, SIO, even direct hardware calls will work. It's inherently much faster than a real Atari drive and additionally supports high speed I/O with most versions of SPARTADOS.

- No direct sector writes are used on the PC, only DOS file calls. SIO2PC won't hurt your hard drive or data.

- You can transfer your Atari files to PC files and vice versa. You can have direct access to PC files which haven't even been converted to Atari disk images--including Atari executables.

- The PRINT-THRU function lets you print from the Atari, intercept the output on the PC, and direct it to your PC's screen, PC file, or printer, with or without translation.

- Many enhancements, such as DOS shell, extract Atari directory, etc. have been added over the years. A status line tells you what is happening on the serial bus. Still, the program is compact (less than 30KB) and fast due to being coded entirely in assembly language.

- How can you get it? Take the software as shareware and build it yourself, or I'll build you one ($50), or provide a kit of parts ($30). (Add $5 postage)

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Micro Discount is the U.K. distributors for the Dutch Disk MEGA MAGAZINE. This is the best magazine for all 8 bit fanatics, it is compiled from articles submitted by enthusiasts in Holland, Sweden, Germany and Norway. Written in English, each issue contains about 150K of text, about 50 pages !.

ISSUE No 1: Articles, Game Hints, Using NMLI's, LZW compression, Top Demo Reviews, High Tech Team story, 3D vector graphics, Lynx Articles The High Tech Team in Poland, on the B side: New caves for Boulder Dash.

ISSUE No 2: Articles, Illegal opcodes, Extra colour editor, Lynx articles, XL/XE in Stereo. B side filled with shareware.

ISSUE No 3: Articles, XL/XE stereo part 2, LWZ compression part 2, Atari news Expo demo assembly source. B side filled with PD software.

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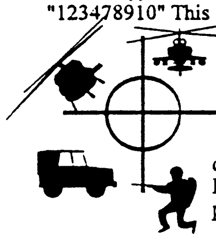
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ATESIG members promote the application of Atari 8-bits in model railroading. They develop and share hardware and software. Dues cover four issues of the ATESIG Newsletter. Program Development Index, ATESIG Resource books and other materials are available in both hardcopy and on disks. Members are encouraged to work in teams to develop applications of mutual interest. We encourage members to subscribe to GEnie where we may establish a roundtable. 1994 dues are $10 payable in US funds to:

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Trans-World Exchange

Atari 8-bit (XL/XE) Shareware games and utilities from Poland

① **Fig-Forth** modules - Roland Pantola has used these modules to create **Gabi**, **Kvadryk**, **Bongo** and other exciting games. Comes with some instructions. Side B: has a tutorial on fig-Forth.

② **KVADRYK** - The Kingdom needs a great dragon slayer like you to take up your joystick and drive the dragons of the realm (if you must use the keyboard, you can). Each of the ten levels offers a different pattern of moveable bricks that the dragon has to be driven through in order to make the magic mirror appear. Then keep the dragon from escaping and lure it into the mirror. On-screen English instructions, a save level feature and a low price tag make this an easy choice for your next 8-bit purchase.

③ **GABI** - Gabrelle must, like all good squirrels, gather her nuts for the winter and store them in her warehouse. Use hammers or rocks to crack the nuts which contain surprises such as spiders' webs or the key to the warehouse door. Over ten levels of unique patterns with on-screen English instructions.

④ **Bongo** - As a stranded space traveller you must pick up things around the village and send your Bongobot into huts to gather what you need to repair your spaceship. The game has an unusual movement feature: outside the huts the space traveller moves conventionally, but when the action switches to the inside of the small hut, instead of moving the Bongobot, you move the room!

⑤ **BASIC 3 GAME SET** - All three games on one disk with a printed English translation and additional notes.

> **CALENDARIUM** - You knew they did things differently in Poland, but wait until you see how they do their calendars! Use your joystick to see a month at a glance from the year Zero to the far distant future. Also shows the phases of the moon and the Zodiac signs.
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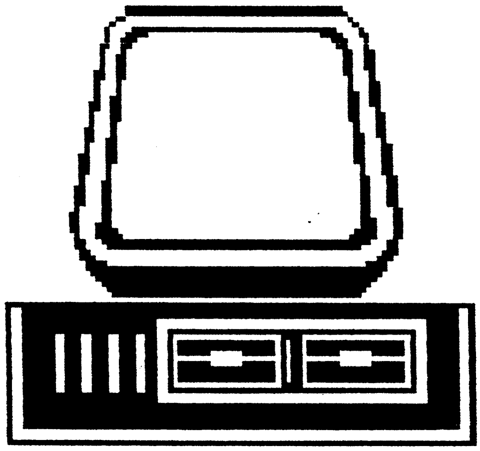
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ARENA The full 50 level version of the excellent puzzle game that was a demo bonus on Page 6's issue 66 disk. Price: £5 ($10) XL/XE Disk only.

BUBBLE ZONE A fast blast em set on a grid being invaded by ever expanding bubbles. Collect the tokens and see how far you can advance. Price: £5 ($10) XL/XE Disk only.

JAWBREAKER Classic maze game based on Pac-Man, munch the sweets but don't forget that dental hygene! Two different mazes supplied which were originally separate games.
Price: £4.50 ($10)

MOUSEKATTACK Another classic maze game, but this one involves you plumbing all the levels of Rat Alley. Addictive arcade action with a simultaneous two player mode.
Price: £4.50 ($10)

Jawbreaker and Mousekattack are available as a double pack for only **£6.95** ($12). They are available on disk, tape and Rambit turbo tape, please state which when ordering.

YORKY 256K plug in memory upgrade with manual and support disk. Very few units left. Hurry this could be your last chance!
Price: £50 ($90) +p&p (UK £2, EC £3.50, world £5)

OTHER COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE.

I also have limited stocks of older commercial software on a periodic basis. All titles are new and still shrink wrapped with original (English) documentation. At the moment I have the following titles available:

Disks @ £4.75 ($10) each:

SILENT SERVICE, HALLEY PATROL, TAXICAB HILL, GORF, WINTER CHALLENGE & SUMMER GAMES.

ROMS @ £6.95 ($14) each:

GATO

Also available is a select range of PD software at £1.50 ($2.50) per disk.
Please send a SAE (or IRC for overseas) for full details and upto date stock levels.

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RICHARD GORE, 79 SPROTBROUGH ROAD, SPROTBROUGH, DONCASTER, DN5 8BW, ENGLAND

Telephone: (0302) 784642

Plus coming soon..... new software from Germany and possibly (in the UK) the ICD/OSS product line such as SpartaDOS X, R-Time 8, Action!, MAC 65 etc.

Cleveland Free-Net Atari SIG

8-Bit Computers Support Area: latest news and information, product reviews and summaries, Usenet's comp.sys.atari.8bit, ALL Z*Mags. 8-Bit Technical Forum: Resource Center, Tips and Tricks.

Michael Current and Craig Lisowski, 8-Bit Atari SIGOps.

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Atari 8-Bit Computers
Frequently Asked Questions List
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Where to get the latest copy of the 8-bit Atari FAQ List

The home of many FTP archive sites, automatically updated monthly:
ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet-by-group/news.answers/atari-8-bit/faq

The World Wide Web hypertext version, automatically generated monthly:
http://www.cis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/atari-8-bit/faq/faq.html

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☞ Credit Where Credit is Due ☜

This work would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Michael Current, maintainer of the Info-Atari-8 Vendor and Developer list and FAQ lists on the Internet. His work gave me a place to start - Thanks, Michael!

Super products.

Supermon.

For all models. Dissembler to screen or printer. Built in graphics dump utility allows printing of almost any thing on the screen. Hex/dec conversion, automatic density seeking and access up to 4 drives. Direct sector oriented disk access and powerful search and debugger features. No need for the translator disk. Allows switching between supermon and the original operating system. Little or no soldering required, depending on model.

Printmon.

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Supermax.

Supermax converts your 1050 to true double density and quadruples the baudrate. Us doubler compatible and works with all versions of **Superdos.** Easy to install little or no soldering required depending on your drive.

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Expands your 600XL/800XL to 256k, your 800 to 288k. The 800 system is axlon ramdisk compatible. The XLs are 130XE compatible. Easy to install. Little soldering required. The 800 version requires a 16k board sent in for upgrading.

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Allows you to run those 64k programs not normally possible on the 800. Adds 16k of static ram, two operating systems with supermon. Runs most 64K programs. When combined with superram 800, can emulate a 128k 130XE as well.

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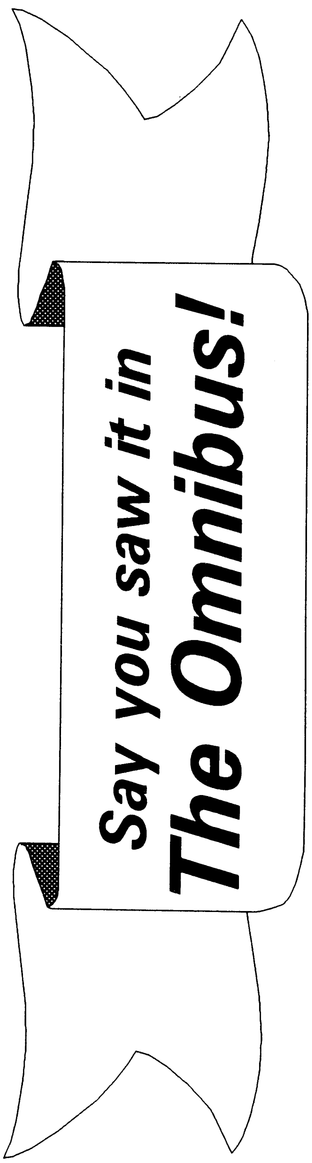
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Atari ST and 130XE Emulators for MS-DOS, Windows, and OS/2

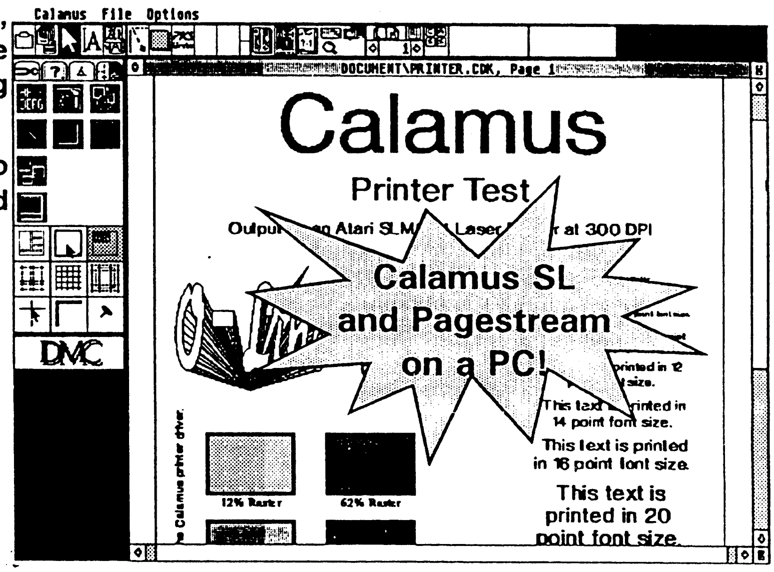
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Gemulator 3.02 is fully compatible with: Pagestream, Calamus SL, CAD 3D, MultiTOS, Geneva, Silhouette, Pha$ar, STraight FAX, LDW Power, Word Up, ST Writer, GFA Basic, Neodesk, Prism Paint, Flash, Tempus, Degas, Word Writer, First Word, Hotwire, Multidesk, Maxifile, GDOS/G+PLUS, STorm, Quick ST, Warp 9, Word Flair, EZ Calc, GEMvelope, Sudden View, Laser C, ST Xformer, Magic Sac, Interlink, Avante Vector, Thunder, UIS III, Data Master, Turbo ST, NVDI, Extended Control Panel, Word Flair II, Cyber Paint, and hundreds of other Atari ST programs and utilities. Only software that makes use of MIDI ports, copy protected disks, and some timing dependent software (like Spectrum 512) isn't supported. List price: $99.95 plus ROMs.

Gemulator is a plug-in 68000 emulation card that runs on any 386/486/Pentium PC with at least 2.5 megabytes of RAM, a VGA card, 3.5 inch floppy disk drive, and an 8-bit card slot. Gemulator supports: up to 8 megabytes of ST RAM, 360K, 720K, and 1.44M floppy disks, 19.2 kilobaud modems, parallel printers, 640x480 and 800x600 SuperVGA graphics, Sound Blaster compatible sound cards, and all versions of TOS from 1.0 to 2.06.

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Requires a 386/486/Pentium PC with 640K RAM and a VGA card. Free demo version (XF2.ZIP) available on Compuserve and GEnie.

Available from Toad Computers, Rising Star, Mid Cities, RunPC, Hobbytown U.S.A., ST Club, and Paragon Computers.
To place an order directly, or to get magazine review reprints and more product information, contact us at:

Branch Always Software, 14150 N.E. 20th Street, Suite 302, Bellevue, WA 98007
FAX: 206-885-5893 Orders: 206-369-5513 CompuServe: 73657,2714 GEnie: BRASOFT Delphi: DAREKM

P.E.E.R.S. of Omaha
(PATTEN's Electronic Equipment Repair Service)
917 North 169th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68118-9342
(402) 289-3572

Monday thru Friday - 10 AM to 9 PM, Saturday 1 PM to 5 PM (CST) Date 02/24/92

Repair Price List

Model Number	Description	Maximum Repair Price *	Model Number	Description	Maximum Repair Price *
ATARI 400	Computer	48.75	410	Recorder	27.00
600XL	Computer	48.75	800XL	Computer	67.50
800	Computer	67.50	810	Disk Drive	75.00
850	Interface	55.00	1010	Recorder	29.95
1020	Printer	34.95	1025	Printer	75.00
1027	Printer	95.00	1050	Disk Drive	75.00
XF551	DS Disk Drive	95.00	1200XL	Computer	67.50
65XE	Computer	67.50	130XE	Computer	85.00
XE System	Computer	67.50	2600	Video Computer Sys.	29.95
5200	Video Super Sys.	69.95	5200	Joystick Controller (Rebuilt)	24.95
7800	Video Pro System	55.00			
520 STM	ST Computer	109.95	520 STFM	ST Computer w/SS Disk	119.95
520 STFM	ST Computer w/DS Disk	142.00	1040 STFM	ST Computer	142.00
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SF354	ST Disk Drive (SS)	99.95	SF314	ST Disk Drive (DS)	142.00
SH204	ST Hard Disk Drive	245.00	SH205	ST Hard Disk Drive	245.00
MegaFile30	ST Hard Disk Drive	245.00	MegaFile60	ST Hard Disk Drive	425.00
SM124	ST Mono Monitor	95.00	SC1224	ST Color Monitor	195.00
STM1	ST Mouse	29.95			

The above prices are Maximum charges and are given to show what it could cost to fix each item, but we will continue to repair the above equipment at the rate of $25.00 per hour plus parts replaced.

ALL ATARI STE & TT Computer Equipment 34.95 Per Hour plus Parts Replaced.

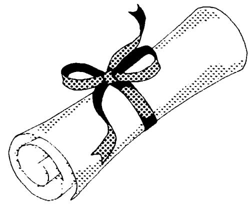
ALL ATARI IBM Compatible, STacy and ST Book Equipment 44.95 Per Hour plus Parts Replaced.

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Other Sources

Despite our efforts, there are other sources for Atari 8-bit products not advertised. All those listed below accept payment via Visa, MasterCard, money orders and personal cheques. All payments should be in US funds.

American Techna Vision
15338 Inverness St.
San Leandro, CA 94579
(510) 352-3787
Carries: Upgrades, repair parts, new hardware, software.

B & C Computervisions
2730 Scott Blvd
Santa Clara, CA 95050-2511
(408) 986-9960
Fax (408) 986-9968
Carries: Upgrades, repair parts, new and used hardware, software.
Catalogue: $1.50 coin or stamp (free with order)

DataQue/Lex-Tronics
1623 West Fourth Street
Mansfield, OH 44906-1701
(419) 529-9797 (ask for Chuck)
Developer:TransKey, XDev65, TBC-4001, Turbo-Calc, Turbo-View, Programmers' Pal

Best Electronics
2021 The Alameda, Suite 290
San Jose, CA 95126-1127
(408) 243-6950
Fax (408) 243-8274
Carries: Upgrades, repair parts, new hardware, software.
Catalogue: $2.00
Note: Credit card orders minimum $20; 4% surcharge on credit card orders under $50.

Computer Software Services
P.O. Box 17660
Rochester, NY 14617
(716) 247-7158
Fax (716) 247-7158
BBS (716) 247-7157
Developer:Black Box, Floppy Board, Super Archiver, Multiplexer, XF 3 1/2" upgrade, Bit Writer,UltraSpeed Plus OS.
Carries: New and used hardware, upgrades, software

Online Resources

Three commercial online services all support the Atari 8-bit to varying degrees. All offer a variety of other services than may serve your needs. You will require a credit card for payment. Pricing and other details, as of October 1994, are as follows:

NAME	Monthly Fee	Per hour	Comments	How to join
CompuServe	$8.95	$4.80 (2400 baud) $9.60 (9600 baud)	Monthly fee includes unlimited access to a package of services. Atari 8-bit area is a subsection of Atari gaming area. Small file area.	Contact Customer service at: US: 1-800-524-3388 (Operator 198) UK: 0800 289 378 Germany: 0130-3732 Switzerland: 155 31 79 Other: (614) 457-0802 (Taken from Atari Classics 2/5)
Delphi	$10 or $20	$4.00 or $1.80	Pricing plans include 4 or 20 free online hours per month. Includes full InterNet access. Has few local numbers; most access via Sprintnet or other data services, which raises cost. Large file area. Atari 8-bit area subsection of Atari ST area.	To sign up, call 1-800-695-4002; when your modem connects, press RETURN a few times. Depending upon how busy this line is you may need to press return quite a few times. When prompted, use the username JOINDELPHI and the password FREE. Please note that you need a credit card for instant access, but alternative billing can be set up if necessary.
GEnie	$8.95	$3.00 (2400 baud) $6.00 surcharge (9600 baud)	Monthly fee includes 4 free hours per month. Prime Time additional hourly fees in effect between 8AM and 6PM. Largest file area. Atari 8-bit area separate from all others.	Set communications software to half duplex (local echo) at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud. Dial toll free 1-800-638-8369 (1-800-387-8330 in Canada). At the U#= prompt, enter XTX99437,GENIE then press [RETURN]. Follow the instructions on line.

Something to note: I contacted all three services online for joining information. Delphi responded within 24 hours, sending me a 12 000 byte letter explaining all that Delphi has to offer. GEnie forwarded my Email to their PR department, who never got back to me. CompuServe wrote back telling me that I require their approval before letting anyone know how to join. None of this should be construed as an endorsement or criticism of any of the services outlined.

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Contact me via Email at:
D.PATERSON2@genie.geis.com

or by "normal" mail at:

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Pitcher, rendered by MODEL BUILDER (TV Screen Photo)

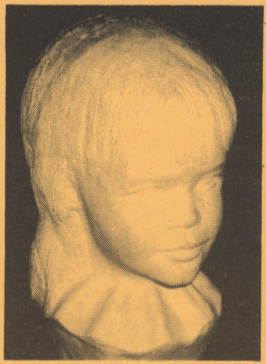
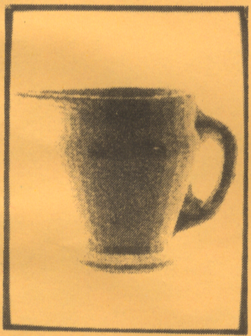


Photo of actual bust of human head

ChromaCAD™ 3-D MODEL BUILDER program

With the ChromaCAD™ MODEL BUILDER program, you can build any 3-D Model you can dream of. You merely start at the bottom and draw the contour lines of the model as you work your way up. Add surface colors to the model as you draw the lines. *You* decide how many contour lines to use for each model (up to 158). Huge scrolling graph allows you to draw contour lines *as detailed as you want.* Computer-assisted drawing of lines, circles, arcs, ellipses.

With this program you will be able to construct unbelievably detailed 3-D models. The MODEL BUILDER program reflects a new breed of 3-D modelers -- completely free-form sculptured-surface -- no "extrude" or "sweep" tool limitations. You will be able to construct models of human heads so accurately that, when you display them with the ChromaCAD SURFACE SHADER XE program (described below) *you will be able to recognize the subject from the model !* (See the photo of an actual bust and the 3-D model renderings. The bust model is one of the models included free on the "examples" disk.)



Same Pitcher ,rendered by SURFACE SHADER (TV Screen Photo)

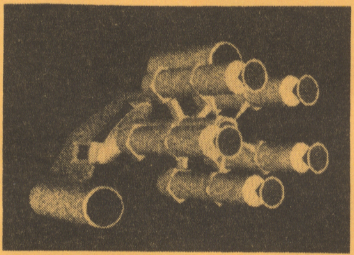


3-D model rendering (TV Screen Photo)

ChromaCAD™ SURFACE SHADER XE program

The ChromaCAD™ SURFACE SHADER XE program can display any model constructed by the MODEL BUILDER program in surface-shaded format from any point of view, using up to three lights. Lights can be individually varied in intensity and individually set to strike the model from any direction. Models can be displayed in a variety of modes, including 3-D stereo. Colors can be reassigned instantly.

Up to ten models can be combined to produce one scene. (airport model, airplanes, cars etc. combined) Also negative, mirror and stepped-tone rendering, automatic clipping, highlighting, and inside viewing of models.



Space ship, 5 cluster rockets (TV Screen Photo)

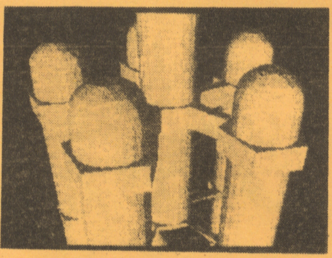


3-D Model Rendering (TV Screen Photo)

ChromaCAD™ Printer, Mover Utilities

This collection of programs allows you to move models between disks and print fully shaded models (color too!), using any Epson/Panasonic/Star/IBM or compatibles dot matrix printer. *Even prints stereo pairs* (for viewing models in stereo with a mirror). Now includes "tile" printing. Tiles can be assembled for breathtaking detail and final graphic size.

View any model in 3-D Stereo! (With included 3-D stereo glasses.) Watch models virtually jump off the screen!



Close up of cluster rockets from the top (TV Screen Photo)

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3-D Model Rendering (TV Screen Photo)